

Claim 13 recites an X-ray exam system including an x-ray source, a detector positioned to receive x-rays transmitted from the x-ray source, a patient table positioned so that the x-ray source emits x-rays towards a patient thereon, a video monitor for displaying images while performing an exam, and a voice activated control system coupled to the x-ray source, the detector, and the video monitor, "said voice activated control system for controlling playback imaging sequencing based on a voice command to facilitate analysis of a plurality of acquired images, said control system comprising an audio microphone configured to be positioned for receiving audio input from an operator, and an audio signal processor coupled to said microphone for processing amplified audio signals from said amplifier, said processing comprising at least one of word and phrase recognition, said control system coupled to controls for at least one of said x-ray source, said detector, and said monitor for executing commands received by said control system." Faul et al. do not describe nor suggest an X-ray exam system including an x-ray source, a detector positioned to receive x-rays transmitted from the x-ray source, a patient table positioned so that the x-ray source emits x-rays towards a patient thereon, a video monitor for displaying images while performing an exam, and a voice activated control system coupled to the x-ray source, the detector, and the video monitor, the voice activated control system for controlling playback imaging sequencing based on a voice command to facilitate analysis of a plurality of acquired images, the control system including an audio microphone configured to be positioned for receiving audio input from an operator, and an audio signal processor coupled to the microphone for processing amplified audio signals from the amplifier, the processing including at least one of word and phrase recognition, the control system coupled to controls for at least one of the x-ray source, the detector, and the monitor for executing commands received by the control system. Specifically, Faul et al. do not describe or suggest a voice activated control system for controlling playback imaging sequencing based on a voice command to facilitate analysis of a plurality of acquired images. Rather in contrast to the present invention, Faul et al. describe that the video control circuitry holds data related to the available commands for speech controlled instructions and/or data input, and by observing the

monitor, the operator can determine which commands he/she have already executed. For the reasons set forth above, Claim 13 is submitted to be patentable over Faul et al.

Claims 16 and 18 depend directly from independent Claim 13. When the recitations of Claims 16 and 18 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 13, Applicants respectfully submit that dependent Claims 16 and 18 likewise are patentable over Faul et al.

For the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the Section 102 rejection of Claims 13, 16 and 18 be withdrawn.

The rejection of Claims 14, 15 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Faul et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,440,606) is respectfully traversed.

Faul et al. is described above. Applicants respectfully submit that the Section 103 rejection of the presently pending claims is not a proper rejection. Obviousness cannot be established by merely suggesting that it would have been an obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Faul et al. to produce the claimed invention. Rather, each allegation of what would have been an obvious matter of design choice must always be supported by citation to some reference work recognized as standard in the pertinent art, and the Applicants given an opportunity to challenge the correctness of the assertion or the repute of the cited reference. Applicants have not been provided with the citation to any reference supporting the combination made in the rejection.

Furthermore, it is impermissible to use the claimed invention as an instruction manual or "template" to piece together the teachings of the cited art so that the claimed invention is rendered obvious. Specifically, one cannot use hindsight reconstruction to pick and choose among isolated disclosures in the art to deprecate the claimed invention. Further, it is impermissible to pick and choose from any one reference only so much of it as will support a

given position, to the exclusion of other parts necessary to the full appreciation of what such reference fairly suggests to one of ordinary skill in the art.

Further, and to the extent understood, Faul et al. do not describe nor suggest the claimed combination, and as such, the presently pending claims are patentably distinguishable from Faul et al. Specifically, Claims 14, 15 and 17 depend directly from independent Claim 13 which recites an X-ray exam system including an x-ray source, a detector positioned to receive x-rays transmitted from the x-ray source, a patient table positioned so that the x-ray source emits x-rays towards a patient thereon, a video monitor for displaying images while performing an exam, and a voice activated control system coupled to the x-ray source, the detector, and the video monitor, “said voice activated control system for controlling playback imaging sequencing based on a voice command to facilitate analysis of a plurality of acquired images, said control system comprising an audio microphone configured to be positioned for receiving audio input from an operator, and an audio signal processor coupled to said microphone for processing amplified audio signals from said amplifier, said processing comprising at least one of word and phrase recognition, said control system coupled to controls for at least one of said x-ray source, said detector, and said monitor for executing commands received by said control system.” Faul et al. do not describe nor suggest an X-ray exam system including an x-ray source, a detector positioned to receive x-rays transmitted from the x-ray source, a patient table positioned so that the x-ray source emits x-rays towards a patient thereon, a video monitor for displaying images while performing an exam, and a voice activated control system coupled to the x-ray source, the detector, and the video monitor, the voice activated control system for controlling playback imaging sequencing based on a voice command to facilitate analysis of a plurality of acquired images, the control system including an audio microphone configured to be positioned for receiving audio input from an operator, and an audio signal processor coupled to the microphone for processing amplified audio signals from the amplifier, the processing including at least one of word and phrase recognition, the control system coupled to controls for at least one of the x-ray

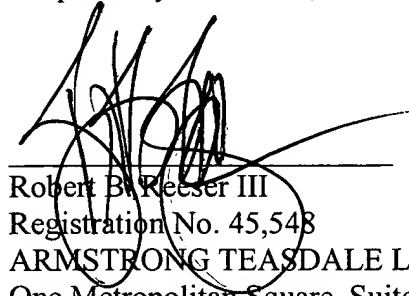
source, the detector, and the monitor for executing commands received by the control system. Specifically, Faul et al. do not describe or suggest a voice activated control system for controlling playback imaging sequencing based on a voice command to facilitate analysis of a plurality of acquired images. Rather, in contrast to the present invention, Faul et al. describe that the video control circuitry holds data related to the available commands for speech controlled instructions and/or data input, and by observing the monitor, the operator can determine which commands he/she have already executed. For the reasons set forth above, Claim 13 is submitted to be patentable over Faul et al.

Claims 14, 15 and 17 depend directly from independent Claim 13. When the recitations of Claims 14, 15 and 17 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 13, Applicants respectfully submit that dependent Claims 14, 15 and 17 likewise are patentable over Faul et al.

For the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the Section 103 rejection of Claims 14, 15 and 17 be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, all the claims now active in this application are believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,



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Express Mail No. EV 339986242 US

RD-28,600
PATENT



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Johnson et al.

Serial No.: 09/973,560

Filed: October 9, 2001

For: VOICE ACTIVATED
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CONTROL USER INTERFACE

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: Art Unit: 2882
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: Examiner: Thomas, Courtney D.
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Sir:

Submitted herewith are marked up Claims in accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.121(c)(1)(ii), wherein additions are underlined and deletions are [bracketed].

IN THE CLAIMS

13. (once amended) An X-ray exam system, comprising:

an x-ray source;

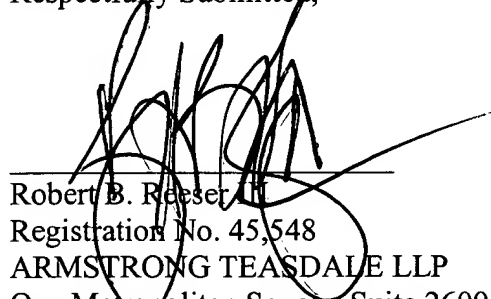
a detector positioned to receive x-rays transmitted from said x-ray source;

a patient table positioned so that said x-ray source emits x-rays towards a patient thereon;

a video monitor for displaying images while performing an exam; and

a voice activated control system coupled to said x-ray source, said detector, and said video monitor, said voice activated control system for controlling playback imaging sequencing based on a voice command to facilitate analysis of a plurality of acquired images, said control system comprising an audio microphone configured to be positioned for receiving audio input from an operator, and an audio signal processor coupled to said microphone for processing amplified audio signals from said amplifier, said processing comprising at least one of word and phrase recognition, said control system coupled to controls for at least one of said x-ray source, said detector, and said monitor for executing commands received by said control system.

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